

Danner, Ward

From: Wilson, Patrick
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2014 10:36 AM
To: Jeng, Cy@DTSC
Subject: FW: Malibu Coverage

FYI -

From: Scott, Jeff
Sent: Saturday, June 21, 2014 1:43 PM
To: Wilson, Patrick
Subject: Fw: Malibu Coverage

Patrick-

A big thank you for all the hard work on this project!!

From: Mogharabi, Nahal
Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 10:54:12 PM
To: Blumenfeld, Jared; Scott, Jeff; Armann, Steve; Wilson, Patrick; Huetteman, Tom; Nurre, Deirdre; Zito, Kelly; Keener, Bill; Maier, Brent
Subject: Malibu Coverage

Below is initial coverage from today's visit. Some minor inaccuracies, but overall the coverage was good!

Thanks to all for the work and efforts that went into today's visit.

Have a great weekend,

Nahal

(ABC TV with VIDEO, AIRED on EVENING NEWS): EPA official tours Malibu High over health concerns

By Carlos Granda, Friday, June 20, 2014

MALIBU, Calif. (KABC) --The regional director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency toured Malibu High School Friday and examined the possible dangerous toxins on campus. The tour was followed by meetings with school officials, parents and community leaders.

"I really love this school and I want it to be safe for everyone there, and I want the teachers to be safe," student Gabby Williams said.

About a third of Malibu High teachers complained last year about construction and moldy classrooms causing health problems. About 20 staff members, including three diagnosed with thyroid cancer, wrote a letter blaming their health issues on toxic conditions on campus.

"This is about parents deciding what is an appropriate risk for our own children, the district can't decide that, the EPA shouldn't be deciding that, they should give us the scientific evidence, but it's the parents who should decide what's safe enough for our kids," Jennifer DeNicola of Malibu Unites said. Malibu Unites is a collaboration between parents, teachers and community members working together for healthy, toxin-free schools.

Testing done last fall found that some caulk samples contained PCB levels above 50 parts per million, an EPA representative said. The caulking was found in several windows installed back in the 60s. Caulk with PCBs above 50 ppm is not authorized for use under the federal Toxic Substances Control Act.

Jared Blumenfeld of the EPA says the levels are acceptable.

"All of our sampling to date has been below the national PCB risk level that we care about," Blumenfeld said. "That doesn't mean there aren't issues, and we are going to continue with the district to make sure they do testing."

In October, students were temporarily moved from some classrooms because of the concerns.

Residents are angry that eight months after learning about the removal of more than 1,100 tons of toxic soil on campus, very limited testing has occurred. And parents are concerned students could be returning to contaminated classrooms this fall.

In 2010, the district removed 1,000 cubic yards of dirt after it tested positive for carcinogens, lead and pesticides. When asked if parents and teachers were informed at the time, the superintendent says the district went through the standard protocol. But many parents say they didn't know.

At a meeting Friday afternoon, parents argued that perhaps the tests are incomplete, and that some classrooms weren't checked at all.

"We are going to do a lot of testing this summer, and we are going to test the soil, it's not just about PCB's, we've found nine different toxicants that were in the soil.

School officials say they are complying with the EPA, some sections of the school are closed right now for cleaning and testing.

"We are right now in a process of inspection, some sampling, and then we are going to start work on the cleaning, some of that cleaning is happening now," Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Superintendent Sandra Lyon said.

<http://abc7.com/news/epa-to-tour-malibu-high-over-health-concerns/126382/>

(CBS/KCAL LINK TO VIDEO THAT AIRED): EPA Officials Of Malibu High For 'Toxic Tour'

The EPA toured the campus of Malibu High to check out the level of PCBs and to make sure there is no link to a rash of teacher illnesses. Jeff Nguyen reports.

<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/video/10289916-epa-officials-of-malibu-high-for-toxic-tour/>

(NBC TV with VIDEO. Aired during afternoon news, website doesn't have updated story):EPA Official Meets With Parents, District Officials About Tests at Malibu Schools

The closed-door meeting was scheduled after months of complaints from parents who want soil tests on the school campuses. A member of the United States Environmental Protection Agency arrived Friday morning to visit with Malibu school officials at the request of parents who have expressed concerns about toxic substances at campuses.

A closed-door meeting involving the direction of the Region 9 USEPA, parents and members of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District was scheduled for Friday. Parents have said they are concerned about testing and remediation measures at Malibu middle and high schools and nearby Juan Cabrillo Elementary School.

The meeting is expected to focus on enforcement of the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, a federal law that regulates testing and restrictions on certain chemicals. No cameras were allowed on the tour or at the meeting.

Concerns were raised early last year after three teachers at the school were diagnosed with thyroid cancer, prompting staff, parents and students to demand testing for carcinogens.

Preliminary environmental tests done on the school in October ruled out mold as a health hazard. But parents and educators demanded more comprehensive tests, including on campus soil, to determine whether contaminants caused the illnesses.

In November, tests of carcinogen levels at Malibu High School revealed that some caulk samples contained PCB levels above legal limits set by the Environmental Protection Agency, officials said. The majority of the samples came back with levels below regulatory limits, but a "few" of the samples showed results higher than the EPA standard, according to the Santa Monica Malibu Environment Task Force.

Malibu Unites, a group pushing for additional tests, contends the EPA refused to approved the school district's preliminary testing plan. In a response to those claims, the company hired to conduct tests indicated tests would begin this month.

"We understand that Environ and the SMMUSD will begin to implement the testing plan at the Malibu High School and Juan Cabrillo on June 16, 2014," according to the letter from Environ sent to the school district. It was not immediately clear whether the tests have been conducted, but signs on campus indicate that soil tests are being performed.

<http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/Malibu-Santa-Monica-High-School-Juan-Cabrillo-Toxic-Soil-Carcinogens-Tests-EPA-263998221.html>

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